

# ***NEWS RELEASE***

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***OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY  
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA  
San Diego, California***

***United States Attorney  
Carol C. Lam***

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***For Further Information, Contact: Assistant U.S. Attorney Bruce C. Smith (619) 557-6963***

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***For Immediate Release***

**NEWS RELEASE SUMMARY** - January 4, 2007

United States Attorney Carol C. Lam announced that Celedonio Ibarra-Valenzuela pled guilty in federal court in San Diego to Count 2 of a two-count indictment charging him with possession with intent to distribute approximately 2,442.42 kilograms (5,373.32 pounds) of marijuana, a felony. Ibarra-Valenzuela entered his guilty plea before Magistrate Judge Nita L. Stormes, subject to final acceptance of the plea by United States District Court Judge Larry A. Burns, at the time of sentencing.

According to court records, on October 17, 2006, at the Cargo Facility, East Port of Entry, Calexico, Ibarra-Valenzuela entered the United States from Mexico, driving a semi-tractor pulling a large, enclosed commercial trailer. Ibarra-Valenzuela presented manifest documents describing his cargo as cases of soft drinks. A close examination of the trailer by Customs and Border Protection Officers revealed the presence of cardboard boxes containing a total of 413 plastic and tape-wrapped packages filled with marijuana.

Sentencing for Ibarra-Valenzuela is scheduled for March 19, 2007, before United States District Court Judge Larry A. Burns.

**DEFENDANT**      **Case Number: 06cr2324-LAB**

Celedonio Ibarra-Valenzuela

**SUMMARY OF CHARGE**

Title 21, United States Code, Section 841(a)(1) (Possession with intent to distribute of 1,000 kilograms or more of marijuana, a Schedule I Controlled Substance)

Maximum Penalty: Life in prison; 10 years minimum mandatory prison sentence; and a \$4,000,000 fine.

**AGENCIES**

Customs & Border Protection  
Immigration and Customs Enforcement  
Drug Enforcement Administration (Southwest Regional Laboratory)